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or progressive attempts and improvements, on the part of those who have gone before us, and without which the manufacture of these useful articles would not be so easy nor so swift as it is to-day.

You cannot raise your eyes nor take a single step without meeting everywhere with signs of benefits derived from our ancestors. The roads — for the most part they made them. The villages and towns in which we dwell and the monuments that adorn them — we owe to them. The magnificent civilization of which we are so proud, the imposing array of sciences so wonderfully perfected, the priceless treasures of literature and art — all are the slow and progressive achievements of past generations, and our only glory will be to add some little contribution to these, that we may in our turn transmit it to those who shall come after us.

In the meantime, we who are living to-day, descendants of the same ancestors, we form a generation of the great human family. All men are our brothers, and the earth is the common dwelling given to us to abide in for a little while, each in our turn. Why should we spend our fleeting existence in injuring or destroying each other? The goodness of the Author of all things has decreed that a thousand bonds should unite us. We have the same origin, the same interests. The same intelligence, in various degrees, shines in each one of us; and the human conscience speaks in the breast of all, showing that, alone amongst created beings, man lives to fulfil his duty and to receive in this earthly life an exact reward according to his deeds. This very fact proves clearly to all men the superiority of their nature and their destiny, and shadows forth the natural harmony that ought to prevail in all their social intercourse.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

Following the offer of prizes to college students made by the American Peace Society, comes one by another society. The following note which we are glad to insert gives the conditions of the competition:

The Peace Association of Friends in America, offer a prize of \$75 for the best essay, \$50 for the second best, and \$25 for the third best essay on the following topic: "War inconsistent with the teaching and spirit of Christ and hence unwise and unnecessary." The essay must be written by a student attending some college in the United States. It must contain not less than five thousand words nor more than eight thousand. It must be well written, on one side of the sheet of paper, or what would be better, copied with a type-writer, the writer retaining the original. They should be in the hands of the secretary, Daniel Hill, Richmond, Ind., by the first of September, 1894. No name or place should be attached to the essay, but the full name and address of the writer should be sent with the essay to the secretary, who will see that they get into the hands of the Judges without any clue as to who the writer is. So the judgment cannot be biased on any personal considerations. The Judges are: Augustine Jones, Friends' School, Providence, R. I.; James E. Rhoads, Bryn Mawr, Penn.; Mahalah Jay, Richmond, Ind.; Ellen C. Wright, Wilmington, Ohio; and Truman C. Kenworthy, Des Moines, Iowa. All essays submitted become the property of the Association.

THE MAGAZINES AND PAPERS.

FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

The *Farm, Field and Fireside*, of Chicago, one of the best agricultural journals of the country, after quoting the statistics of the standing armies in Europe given by Mr. Archibald Forbes in a recent number of the *North American Review*, makes the following sensible comments:

"What an enormous cost! almost any one will agree. Yes, but the figures should be viewed in different ways in order to take in their full meaning. To be sure, there is the money that goes to pay the wages of these men in the country, and to pay for these horses and guns, but this is not all. It is a waste and worse than waste, but it is only the beginning of the economic loss. These men — 10,413,905 in all — are subtracted from all productive occupations. Compute what each could earn and what each could add to the produced wealth of the country, and you begin to better comprehend the sum total of loss by their enlistment in the army.

"Then think of the homes prevented by the military system. The home is the very keystone of the social arch. The greater part of these soldiers can make no proper homes. The legitimate growth of population is thus hindered. All the industries that cluster about homes in society are thus more or less checked.

"The loss intellectually and morally is probably even more deplorable. Not only habits of useful industry are lost or never formed, but habits of quiet thoughtfulness, of literary pursuits, of scientific investigation, of humane and philanthropic effort — all these come in to swell the aggregate of the cost to society and to mankind from these enormous military establishments.

"America, at the least, should set the example of reducing them to the minimum. Every taxpayer is directly interested in this question."

BALTIMORE NEWS.

After the big gun test at Indian Head, the *Baltimore News*, after giving its hearty approval to the development of our navy and the manufacture of these big guns, has a little paragraph of consolation for the Peace Societies:

"The Peace Society, however, has reason to be encouraged; for all this is distinctly in the direction of the abolishment of war. The cost of carrying it on must eventually be too great; the weapons too big, the machinery too gigantic and cumbersome. In time civilized mankind will conclude that it is more sensible to substitute for costly armies and navies the more inexpensive courts of arbitration; argument will take the place of force and eminent lawyers figure above illustrious admirals and generals.

If the *News* had been standing where the 1100 pound projectile, propelled by 500 pounds of powder, struck, or had even been compelled to pay the bills for the two test shots, it would probably have thought the time fully come to refer its case to the "eminent lawyers."

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL.

Does the *Providence Journal* really believe that it does absolutely no good to preach a great idea? It seems to say so in the paragraph given below, in which the utter-